

Filed for intro on 02/01/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate Bill No.SJR0039
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Morris L. Simon.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember one of the outstanding men in the history of the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a state or community is blessed with such a distinguished citizen and truly dedicated humanitarian as Mr. Morris L. Simon; and

WHEREAS, as a reporter, editor, publisher, and courageous civic leader, Mr. Simon will remain in the hearts and minds of Middle Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon began his meritorious life in Bristol, Tennessee, born June 2, 1911, the son of the late Jake and Rose Simon; and

WHEREAS, as a youth, Mr. Simon felt it was his destiny to become an attorney and subsequently enrolled in the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, while in college, Mr. Simon developed a love for writing and a zeal for the current events of the day and eventually decided that a career as a reporter would be much more satisfying than the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, with this new found direction, Mr. Simon sought employment with the Knoxville News-Sentinel, where he offered to work temporarily without pay in order to learn the newspaper business; and

WHEREAS, it was here that his talent emerged; touted as an aggressive, but fair reporter and an advocate for community causes, Mr. Simon became managing editor of the Knoxville paper by 1945; and

WHEREAS, giving wings to his entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Simon teamed up with J. Ralph Harris in 1946 to form H&S Publishing Company; and

WHEREAS, it was with such company that Mr. Simon founded The Tullahoma News, a semi-weekly newspaper which he vowed to “conduct on the principle of a free press in a democracy” and pledged “to not editorialize in news columns, nor be bullied or pressured to do so”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon became known for his high standards in the newspaper industry and his goal to inform and serve the public with accuracy; and

WHEREAS, his company, H&S Publishing, began to grow tremendously as it acquired, merged with, and founded other newspapers, including the 1948 merger with the Tullahoma Guardian; the 1961 purchase of the Manchester Times; the 1966 founding of the Elk Valley Times in Fayetteville; and the 1967 acquisition of Franklin County Publishing Company, publisher of The Herald-Chronicle; and

WHEREAS, contributing greatly to the enhancement of the entire publishing community, Mr. Simon helped to establish the Tennessee Press Foundation and served as director, vice-president, and president of the Tennessee Press Association; and

WHEREAS, as a leader of a group of respected newspapers, Mr. Simon was recognized with many awards during his illustrious career, including the 1967 Outstanding Citizen Award from the Tullahoma Jaycees; the Tennessee Education Association’s School Bell Award; and the Tennessee Hospital Association’s 1974 Media Award for distinguished community service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon’s business interests extended beyond publishing to include his partial ownership of Webbers Typewriter and Office Supplies and an active position as President of Arnold Furniture Store; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his brilliant career as a publisher and businessman, Mr. Simon will long be remembered as an incredible visionary, working tirelessly to assure the growth and development of the community he dearly loved; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon has been described as a “crusader, brave warrior, and true friend” of the University of Tennessee Space Institute; and

WHEREAS, along with the distinguished Senator Ernest Crouch and Dr. Ewing Threet, Mr. Simon helped organize the Support Council for the institute, served as its first vice-chairman, and led efforts to have the institute recognized as a distinct funding entity within the state budget process; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his unyielding commitment and tireless efforts, the faculty at the institute honored Mr. Simon with the establishment of the Morris L. Simon Fellowship in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon also committed himself to the establishment and success of Motlow State Community College and, as a result, a campus building was named in his honor in 1986; and

WHEREAS, his service to the community was virtually endless, as he was also dedicated to Harton Hospital, helping to create excellent medical facilities for his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon unselfishly devoted himself to seats on numerous boards and positions with many organizations, including serving on the state board of education; holding a seat on the Coffee County Industrial Board; organizing and becoming vice-president of the Tennessee River and Tributaries Association; and founding the Elk River Development Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon shared his many accomplishments with his late wife, Lillian Jean Tobe Simon, and two loving children, Judith and Jerrold, who will most assuredly miss their devoted father; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simon will be fondly remembered by the Beth-El Congregation in Tullahoma and the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, both of which he was a devout member; and

WHEREAS, although Mr. Simon has relinquished this life for a far better existence, the legacy of his courage, tenacity, endless energy, and great sense of dedication will live forever in Middle Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we pause to mourn the death of Mr. Morris L. Simon, while also celebrating the life of this man whose many successes and selfless contributions will be remembered for many years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause deleted from such copy.